



Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Complex



Environmental Policy

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The mission of the Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their inhabitants within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

Management activities within the Alligator River NWR Complex serve to preserve and restore the natural qualities of the refuges, to provide habitats for a variety of wildlife, and to offer recreational opportunities for visitors. The Complex's unique wetland qualities are preserved through protection, research and progressive management. Endangered species which are benefited by these management efforts include the red-cockaded woodpecker, American alligator, and red wolf.

In order to carry out its Service and Refuge System missions, and ensure the preservation, conservation and enhancement of the valuable ecological resources with which we are entrusted, the Refuge Complex Team will practice exemplary environmental stewardship. Through our practices, we will demonstrate environmental leadership by example. We will meet or exceed all applicable federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations. In conducting our activities, we will conduct our operations in an environmentally responsible manner, foster the sustainable use of natural resources, promote pollution prevention, reduce waste generation, purchase environmentally preferable products, and recycle and reuse all materials where practicable.

We will continue to work with federal, state, county and local governments, other organizations and local communities to promote the sound environmental management of the Complex and the surrounding region. We will strive to educate visitors, recreational users and other Complex stakeholders on these concepts. We will encourage our suppliers, vendors, and contractors to embrace these same principles.

We will strive for continual improvement in all of these environmental management areas.

Mike Bryant

Mike Bryant, Project Leader

April 22, 2004

Date